



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

Philadelphia, April—September, 1878. Of botanical interest we note Thomas Meehan on "The law governing Sex." It is no new thing hereabout that *Acer rubrum* is in effect dioecious, but the observation of the checked growth of the fairly starting stamens or pistils is very interesting as showing a development caught in the act, and is similar to what occurs in *Silene inflata* as we pointed out years ago. Dr. J. Gibbons Hunt and Mr. Edward Potts throw some new light on the action of the glands in the Asclepiads. Dr. Hunt's observations were made on *Stapelia asterias*, the disagreeable odor of which, it seems, is, by its attraction for flies, a means to cross-fertilization. "Continuous observation for several hours, under a lens which took in a large field of view, revealed many flies eagerly applying their tongues all over the petals and essential organs, apparently eating with almost intoxicated relish the attractive excretion covering those parts. This banquet was indulged in in safety until their tongues came in contract with one or more of five black spots situated near and alternate with the stamens, when, with amazing quickness, the fly was seized and firmly held by the, tongue, a helpless prisoner. Now a struggle commenced, and if the fly was small and not vigorous, he remained in the trap, but, if large and strong, his efforts to escape were successful, and he flew away dragging from its position the black sensitive spot and also the pollen masses, two of which are attached to each trap. This adhesion of the fly's tongue to these black spots is not caused by any cementing liquid, but it is fairly caught by an organic structure, the action resembling that of a common steel trap used for catching rats." "The organ at the juncture of the pollen masses is the sensitive trap, and when touched, however lightly, by the fly or other object (as a hair for example), the *opposing, separated, parallel, and hard edges instantaneously close like pincers*, and the prey is secured." The words we have italicized contain the novelty in Dr. Hunt's observation, and seem to indicate a sensibility in the so-called gland, the action of which gland in our common Asclepiads has often puzzled us. Dr. Hunt's attention was called to the subject by Mr. Isaac Burk, and at the suggestion of the Doctor, Mr. Potts examined such species of the genus *Asclepias* as were within his reach. His statement is that when a fine hair touched "the sensitive inner surface of a gland" it caused "it instantly to contract." He notices that "the glands remain open and susceptible long after plucking the flowers." The figure he gives is not so decisive as that of the *Stapelia*, and allows of mechanical action as a possible explanation.

§ 284. **Parry's Herbarium.**—"Dr. C. C. Parry, of Davenport, Ia., has deposited in the Academy of Science, at that city, his large botanical collection of thirty thousand specimens, the labor of thirty-six years."

Terms—One Dollar per annum beginning with the January number. For the *Botanical Directory* 40 cents; three copies for one dollar, or twelve for three dollars. Vols. I-V, with index, and photograph of Dr. Torrey, \$3.75. Copies of *Constitution and By-Laws* of the Club, 25 cents. Address, WM. H. LEGGETT, 54, East 81st Street, New York. Money Orders on Station K, N. Y. All subscriptions or orders filled only on receipt of the money.

The Club meets regularly the second Tuesday of the month in the Herbarium, Columbia College, at 7:30 P. M. Botanists are invited to attend. DR. THURBER, the President of the Club, may be found at 245 Broadway.